

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 FAA-00 MCT-01 IO-13

FBIE-00 SY-05 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /100 W
----- 129184

R 191955Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9873

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 2748

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TD, CU, US

SUBJECT: CUBANA CRASH - OCTOBER 17-19 PRESS COVERAGE

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 2724

1. THE INVESTIGATION OF THE CUBANA CRASH CONTINUED
TO RECEIVE FRONT PAGE TREATMENT IN ALL NEWSPAPERS.

2. THE ONLY NEW INFORMATION, WHICH INDEED IS
SIGNIFICANT IF TRUE, IS THE REPORT THAT ONE OF THE TWO
NATURALIZED VENEZUELANES BEING HELD BY THE TRINIDAD POLICE
HAS CONFESSED THAT HE INTENDED TO BOMB THE CUBANA AIRLINE
ON OCTOBER 6 BUT NOT TO TAKE LIVES. ACCORDING TO PRESS
REPORTS OF OCTOBER 18 AND 19, THE CONFESSOR INDICATED
TWO BOMBS WERE PLACED IN THE PLANE, ONE OF WHICH
WAS IN THE LAVATORY SECTION, AND THIS ALLEGEDLY WAS
DONE ON THE GROUND AT SEAWELL AIRPORT, BARBADOS. THE
CONFESSION REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE AFTER THE TWO DETAINEES
HAD BEEN SEPARATED BY TRINIDAD POLICE AND TAKEN TO
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UNDISCLOSED LOCATIONS OUTSIDE THE CITY. ACCORDING TO ONE

NEWSPAPER, TRINIDAD POLICE OFFICIALS HAVE DENIED THE REPORT.

3. ACCORDING TO THE "GUARDIAN" OF OCTOBER 19, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DENNIS RAMDWAR, WHO IS HEADING THE INVESTIGATION FOR THE TRINIDAD POLICE, HELD LONG TALKS WITH SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT "SKIP" ROBERTS OF THE BARBADOS POLICE FORCE ON OCTOBER 18. THIS HAS LED TO SPECULATION THAT THE TRINIDADIAN MAY BE DISCUSSING PLANS FOR HANDING OVER THE VENEZUELAN TO THE BARBADOS POLICE FOR CHARGING.

4. CUBAN AMBASSADOR RICARDO ALARCON, WHO IS RESIDENT IN NEW YORK, FLEW TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR TALKS WITH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, HE HAS INDICATED HE IS SATISFIED WITH HIS TALKS HERE. HE IS EXPECTED TO STOP IN BARBADOS ON HIS RETURN TRIP TO NEW YORK.

5. AN EDITORIAL IN THE OCTOBER 19 "EXPRESS" CALLS ON BARBADOS TO FACE UP TO THE FACTS AND ADMIT THAT THE CRASH TOOK PLACE IN THEIR TERRITORIAL WATERS, AND TO ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRYING THE TWO MEN NOW BEING DETAINED IN TRINIDAD. THE "GUARDIAN" REPRINTED AN ARTICLE DATED BRIDGETOWN, OCTOBER 18, IN WHICH IT WAS REPORTED BARBADOS WAS LOOKING INTO THE CRASH AND WOULD "HONOR ITS OBLIGATIONS."

6. THE "GUARDIAN" ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 17 CARRIED SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER'S COMMENTS ON OCTOBER 15 IN WHICH HE DENIED U.S. INVOLVEMENT OR THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IN THE EXPLOSION ABOARD THE CUBANA PLANE. THIS WAS TEXT RECEIVED BY USINFO CABLE SATURDAY AND PROVIDED TO PRESS BY EMBASSY. IT SUPPLEMENTED EARLIER REPORT OF OCTOBER 16 BASED ON WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. (SEE PORT OF SPAIN 2724.)

7. THE EDITORIAL IN THE OCTOBER 18 "EXPRESS" CALLS FOR TIGHTER SECURITY AT PIARCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN PORT OF SPAIN. ACCORDING TO OTHER PRESS ARTICLES, THE SECURITY HAS BEEN GREATLY INCREASED AND MODERN NEW

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SCANNING DEVICES HAVE BEEN PUT INTO OPERATION.
RICH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SABOTAGE, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761037/aaaabfur.tel
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Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
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04 MAY 2006

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